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FACT SHEET

Tarakhil Power Plant

OVERVIEW

The objective of this project is to provide more reliable power to the people of Afghanistan. Most of Kabul's energy is provided by hydropower and imports from Uzbekistan, but these sources are insufficient to meet Kabul's needs, especially when demand peaks during the winter. To address this need USAID constructed the Tarakhil 105 megawatt (MW) power plant. The plant has provided electricity to Kabul since 2009, only two years after construction started. The full 105 MW capacity came on line in December 2009. Representatives of the Afghan Ministry of Energy and Water, the national electric utility, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) and USAID completed their final inspection in May 2010, and USAID transferred the plant to the Afghan government in late June. With electricity imported from Uzbekistan and other neighbors, and power from Afghan hydro generation, power generated by the new plant is helping improve the quality of life for Kabul residents and others living in communities connected to the North East Power System (NEPS).

Tarakhil is a modern diesel power plant that will assist Afghanistan in meeting its current and future power needs. To ensure this plant will continue to provide that power, a highly trained cadre of staff is required to operate it safely and effectively. Additionally, certain lubrications and spare parts, apart from fuel, are necessary to maintain proper operation. USAID is now, and will continue to support operations and maintenance of the plant, and provide training for technicians from across the country for the next two years. This will enable DABS to develop the needed skillsets and experience to successfully operate the plant.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Provide technical assistance to support the operation and maintenance of the plant. Tarakhil
 consists of 18 diesel engines of 5.8 MW each in three power blocks, as well as transformers and
 transmission lines to tie into the NEPS grid, storage tanks for diesel and heavy fuel oil, a firefighting system, administrative offices, and staff accommodations
- Conduct classroom and on-the-job training to form a team of DABS employees fully qualified to manage, operate, and maintain the Tarakhil plant
- Supply peaking power for Kabul on a daily basis, thus ensuring the integrity and reliability of the Kabul power grid

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed the Tarakhil 105 MW power plant on May 31, 2010, with the capacity to provide electricity to more than 600,000 residents in Kabul and those living in communities supported by the NEPS
- Generated power that enabled Kabul to avoid massive blackouts in May 2010, while damaged transmission lines were repaired
- Established approximately 150 permanent jobs in plant operations, including station managers, plant operators, maintenance personnel, administrative staff, and security personnel